

Press Release

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State Releases 1998 Population Estimates

Utah's population reached just over 2,083,000 persons in 1998, according to the Utah Population Estimates Committee. This is an increase of just over 34,000 persons (the approximate population of Murray, Utah), or 1.7%, over the 1997 estimate of approximately 2,049,000. While this rate of increase is notably less than that experienced by the state in recent years, Utah continues to rank among the fastest growing states in the country. In 1998, Utah ranked 6th in the rate of population increase, exceeded only by Nevada, Arizona, Georgia, Colorado, and Texas.

The state's growth over the past year is composed of a record number of births (44,126) and deaths (11,648), but significantly lower net in-migration (approximately 2,000) than the past seven years. Less net in-migration is occurring because of a general moderation in economic activity locally and improving economic conditions in other states, particularly California. California is now in its fourth year of an economic expansion, after a deep recession in the early part of this decade. The rate of job growth in California (3.1%) exceeded that of Utah's (3.0%) during 1998.

Among Utah's 29 counties, the most rapid growth occurred in counties within or adjacent to the northern metropolitan counties and two counties in the southwest portion of the state. The populations in Juab, Tooele, Summit, Sanpete, Utah, Wasatch, and Morgan are expanding quite rapidly, with four of these ranking among the five fastest growing counties in the state. These counties are in close proximity to urban services, but still provide many of the desirable characteristics found in a rural setting.

Washington and Iron County, located in southwest Utah where St. George and Cedar City reside, also experienced rapid growth in 1998. Both counties are high amenity counties, offering a diversity of educational, tourism, retirement, and economic opportunities for local residents. Interestingly, the rate of population growth in Iron County exceeded that of Washington County in 1998, something that has not happened for at least 30 years. This reversal has occurred as Washington County's rate of population growth has decelerated fairly dramatically in the past two years, while Iron County's rate of growth has remained strong and steady. In fact, Washington County's population growth rate dropped below 4% in 1998 for the first time in 24 years.

The highest rates of population growth during 1998 were experienced by the following counties:

Wasatch (5.6%)
Tooele (4.9%)
Iron (3.9%)
Summit (3.9%)
Juab (3.6%)
Sanpete (3.2%)
Piute (3.2%)
Morgan (3.1%)
Utah (3.0%)
Washington (3.0%)

Not all counties experienced a population increase from 1997 to 1998. The economies in several of the counties that lost population are energy-dependent. The level of population has been impacted by extremely low commodity prices and technological advances that have resulted in fewer people extracting natural resources. Counties that lost population in 1998 include Millard, Wayne, Garfield, Duchesne, Carbon, San Juan, Uintah, Beaver, and Daggett.

The Utah Population Estimates Committee is a statutory committee charged with preparing the official population estimates for the State of Utah. The Committee's primary data sources are vital statistics (from birth and death certificates); school enrollment; LDS membership; and income tax returns. When preparing the estimates the Committee also considers job growth, Bureau of the Census population estimates, utility connections, and building permits. Committee membership includes representatives from key data providers and others knowledgeable in the methods used to prepare population estimates. The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget staffs the Committee.

Attachments:

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Utah's Ten Fastest Growing Counties: 1998

Utah Population Growth Rates by County: 1997-1998 (Map)

Utah Population and Components of Change: 1990-1998

Year	July 1st Population	Percent Change	Increase	Net Migration**	Natural Increase	Fiscal Year Births	Fiscal Year Deaths
1990	1,729,000	1.3%	23,000	-3,707	26,707	35,830	9,123
1991	1,775,000	2.7%	46,000	19,235	26,765	36,194	9,429
1992	1,822,000	2.6%	47,000	19,763	27,237	36,796	9,559
1993	1,866,000	2.4%	44,000	17,317	26,683	36,738	10,055
1994	1,916,000	2.7%	50,000	22,788	27,212	37,623	10,411
1995	1,959,351	2.3%	43,351	14,868	28,483	39,064	10,581
1996*	2,002,400	2.2%	43,049	13,555	29,494	40,495	11,001
1997	2,048,753	2.3%	46,353	15,090	31,263	42,512	11,249
1998	2,083,238	1.7%	34,485	2,007	32,478	44,126	11,648

*In 1996, the Utah Population Estimates Committee changed its convention on rounded estimates so that it now publishes unrounded estimates. Accordingly, the estimates for 1995 and thereafter are not rounded.

**Previous to 1995, net migration figures are based on rounded population estimates to maintain consistency with the historical database.

Sources: Utah Population Estimates Committee and Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records

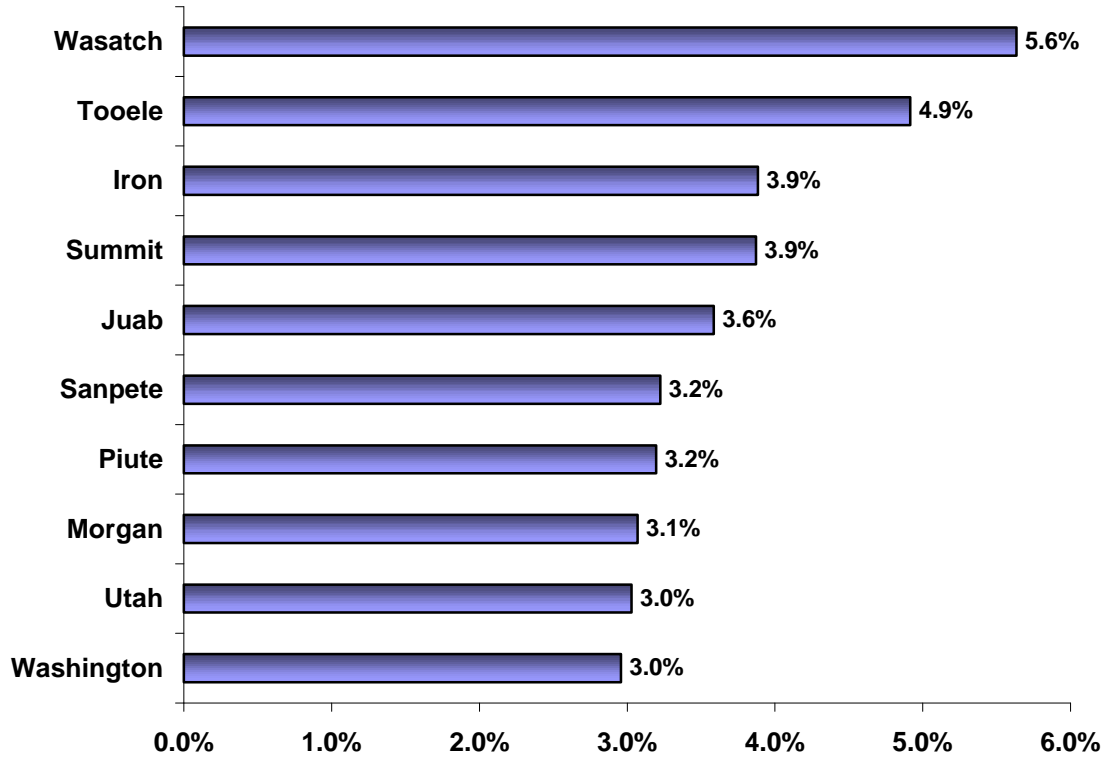
Utah Population by County: 1997 and 1998

District/County	July 1, 1997	July 1, 1998(p)	% Change 1997-98
Bear River	126,209	129,027	2.2%
Box Elder	40,235	40,996	1.9%
Cache	84,186	86,240	2.4%
Rich	1,788	1,791	0.2%
Wasatch Front	1,274,851	1,290,400	1.2%
Davis	224,307	229,529	2.3%
Morgan	6,875	7,086	3.1%
Weber	181,045	182,506	0.8%
Salt Lake	830,627	837,710	0.9%
Tooele	31,997	33,569	4.9%
Mountainland	368,403	380,099	3.2%
Summit	24,675	25,630	3.9%
Utah	330,803	340,816	3.0%
Wasatch	12,925	13,653	5.6%
Central	62,563	63,925	2.2%
Juab	7,702	7,978	3.6%
Millard	12,068	12,054	-0.1%
Piute	1,534	1,583	3.2%
Sanpete	20,581	21,244	3.2%
Sevier	18,238	18,629	2.1%
Wayne	2,440	2,437	-0.1%
Southwestern	121,992	125,432	2.8%
Beaver	5,742	5,678	-1.1%
Garfield	4,525	4,517	-0.2%
Iron	29,338	30,477	3.9%
Kane	6,039	6,155	1.9%
Washington	76,348	78,605	3.0%
Uintah Basin	39,792	39,525	-0.7%
Daggett	753	713	-5.3%
Duchesne	14,402	14,376	-0.2%
Uintah	24,637	24,436	-0.8%
Southeastern	54,943	54,830	-0.2%
Carbon	21,643	21,547	-0.4%
Emery	10,929	10,939	0.1%
Grand	8,830	8,887	0.6%
San Juan	13,541	13,457	-0.6%
State	2,048,753	2,083,238	1.7%

(p)=preliminary

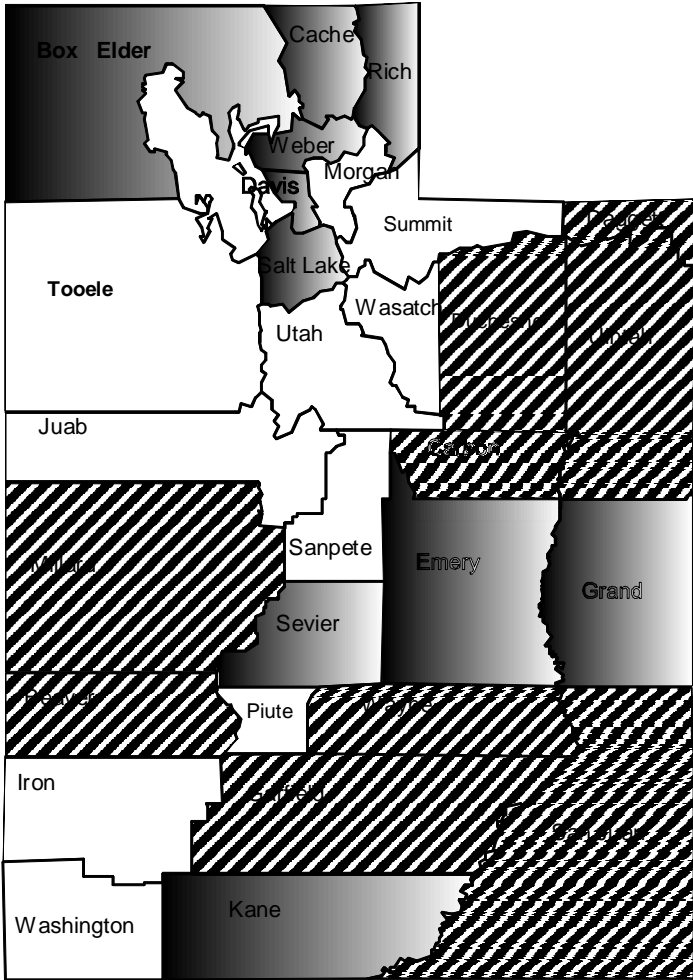
Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee.

Utah's Ten Fastest Growing Counties: 1998



Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee

Utah Population Growth Rates by County: 1997-1998



Greater than 3.0% Increase ☐

Less than 3.0% Increase

Decrease 